

IN THE CLAIMS:

No amendments are being made to the claims; however, the claims as pending are provided below for the Examiner's convenience.

1-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) An optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 25, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line (n_d) and an Abbe number (v_d) is defined as follows:

$$n_d \leq -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

45. (Previously Presented) The optical material according to Claim 44, wherein the Abbe number (v_d), indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.

46. (Previously Presented) An optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.40 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 15, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line (n_d) and an Abbe number (v_d) is defined as follows:

$$n_d \leq -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

47. (Previously Presented) The optical material according to Claim 46, wherein the Abbe number (v_d), indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.

48. (Previously Presented) An optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45, and not more than 1.55 for the d-line, and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 10, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line (n_d) and an Abbe number (v_d) is defined as follows:

$$n_d \leq -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

49. (Previously Presented) The optical material according to Claim 48, wherein the Abbe number (v_d), indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.

50. (Previously Presented) An optical member formed by an optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 25, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line (n_d) and an Abbe number (v_d) is defined as follows:

$$n_d \leq -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

51. (Previously Presented) The optical material according to Claim 50, wherein the Abbe number (v_d), indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, is less than 40.

52. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said second material comprises particles having a grain size in the range of 2 to 100 nm.

53. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is an amorphous fluororesin.

54. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said second material is particles of a composite metal oxide of titanium and silicon ($\text{Si}_x\text{-Ti}_{(1-x)}\text{O}_2$) having the Abbe number (v_d) of 24.4.

55. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is an amorphous fluororesin, said second material is particles of a composite metal oxide of titanium and silicon ($\text{Si}_x\text{-Ti}_{(1-x)}\text{O}_2$) having the Abbe number (v_d) of 24.4, and a weight ratio of the particles and said amorphous fluororesin is in the range of 45:100 to 75:100.

56. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is a dimethylsilicone resin.

57. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material comprises particles of titanium oxide (TiO_2).

58. (Previously Presented) The optical member according to Claim 50, wherein said first material is a dimethylsilicone resin, said second material is particles of titanium oxide (TiO₂), and a weight ratio of the titanium oxide and said dimethylsilicone resin is in the range of 18:100 to 70:100.

59. (Previously Presented) An optical system comprising the optical member according to Claim 50.

60. (Previously Presented) An optical device comprising the optical system according to Claim 59.

61. (Previously Presented) A diffracting optical element formed by an optical material which is formed by mixing materials comprising a first material having a refractive index of not more than 1.45 for the d-line and a second material having an Abbe number, indicating wavelength dispersion in the visible region, of not more than 25, wherein with a predetermined ratio of mixture of said first material and second material, a relation between a refractive index for the d-line (n_d) and an Abbe number (v_d) is defined as follows:

$$n_d \leq -6.667 \times 10^{-3} v_d + 1.70.$$

62. (Previously Presented) An optical system comprising the diffracting optical element according to Claim 61.

63. (Previously Presented) An optical device comprising the optical system according to Claim 62.